The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-62. Canceled

63. (New) An oral pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

a plurality of first particles, each first particle comprising (i) a first pellet containing an active compound, and (ii) a coating comprising a pH dissolution dependent coating material, wherein the coating of the first particle is of a varying thickness and contiguous with the surface of the first pellet;

a plurality of second particles, each second particle comprising (i) a second pellet containing an active compound, and (ii) a coating comprising a pH dissolution dependent coating material, wherein the coating of the second particle is of a varying thickness and contiguous with the surface of the second pellet;

wherein the thickness of the coatings of the first and second particles, as determined by theoretical weight gain, is different and chosen to provide a controlled release of the active compound(s) in an intestinal tract.

64. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 63, wherein the pH dissolution dependent coating material of the plurality of first or second particles is a polymethacrylate material.

65. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 64, wherein the polymethacrylate material comprises a methacrylic acid copolymer.

66. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 64, wherein the polymethacrylate material comprises a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate.

67. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 64, wherein the polymethacrylate material is selected from a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:2, a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:1 or a mixture thereof.

68. (New) The composition as claim in claim 67, wherein the polymethacrylate material is a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:2.

69. (New) The composition according to claim 63, wherein the pH dissolution dependent coating material of the plurality of first particles is the same as the pH dissolution dependent coating material of the plurality of second particles.

70. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 69, wherein the pH dissolution dependent coating material is a polymethacrylate material.

71. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 70, wherein the polymethacrylate material comprises a methacrylic acid copolymer.

72. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 70, wherein the polymethacrylate material comprises a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate.

73. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 70, wherein the polymethacrylate material is selected from a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:2, a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:1 or a mixture thereof.

74. (New) The composition as claim in claim 73, wherein the polymethacrylate material is a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate having a ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups of about 1:2.

75. (New) The composition according to claim 63, wherein the pH dissolution dependent coating material of the plurality of first particles is different from the pH dissolution dependent coating material of the plurality of second particles.

76. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 63, wherein the pellets of the plurality of first particles and the pellets of the plurality of second particles are each coated with a theoretical weight gain on coating in the range 5% to 30%.

77. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 76, wherein the pellets of the plurality of first particles and the pellets of the plurality of second particles are each coated with a theoretical weight gain on coating in the range 10% to 25%.

78. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 63, wherein the pellets of the plurality of first particles are each coated with a theoretical weight gain on coating of 15%, and wherein the pellets of the plurality of second particles are each coated with a theoretical weight gain on coating of 20%.

80. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 63, wherein the thickness of the coating of the plurality of first particles and plurality of second particles is of increments chosen to provide a homogeneous release profile of the active compound along at least one selected portion of the intestinal tract.

81. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 63, wherein the pH dissolution dependent coating material of the plurality of first particles and plurality of second particles is a polymethacrylate material, and wherein the pellets of the plurality of first particles and the pellets of the plurality of second

particles are each coated with a theoretical weight gain on coating in the range 5% to 30%.

82. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 63, wherein the pH dissolution dependent coating material of the plurality of first particles and plurality of second particles is a polymethacrylate material, and wherein the pH dissolution dependent coating material of the plurality of first particles is different from the pH dissolution dependent coating material of the plurality of second particles, and wherein the pellets of the plurality of first particles and the pellets of the plurality of second particles are each coated with a theoretical weight gain on coating in the range 5% to 30%.

83. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 63, further comprising an enterically coated capsule within which the pluralities of first and second particles are contained.

84. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 63, wherein the pellets for the pluralities of first and second particles have a diameter in the range 800 to 1500μm.

79. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 78, wherein the first and second pluralities of pellets are present in a ratio of about 1:3.

85. (New) The composition according to claim 63, wherein the active compound in the plurality of first or second particles is selected from the group consisting of peptides, polypeptide agonists and antagonists of the immune system, proteins, interferons, TNF antagonists, hormones, cytokines, cytokine antagonists, analgesics, antipyretics, antibacterial agents, antiprotozoal agents, anti-inflammatory agents, steroids, probiotics, prebiotics, antibiotics, bisphosphonates, cytotoxic agents, immunomodulators and antiparasitic agents.

86. (New) The composition according to claim 63, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of erythropoietin, human growth hormone, metronidazole, clarithomycin, gentamycin, ciprofloxacin, rifabutin, 5-aminosalicylic acid, 4-aminosalicylic acid, balsalazide, α-amylase, paracetamol, metformin, prednisolone metasulphobenzoate, cyclophosphamide, cisplatin, vincristine, methotrexate, azathioprine, cyclosporin and albenazole.

87. (New) The composition according to claim 63, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of prednisolone metasulphobenzoate, paracetamol, metronidazole and α-amylase.

88. (New) The composition according to claim 63, wherein the active compound in the plurality of first particles and the active compound in the plurality of second particles is the same.

89. (New) The composition according to claim 88, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of peptides, polypeptide

agonists and antagonists of the immune system, proteins, interferons, TNF antagonists, hormones, cytokines, cytokine antagonists, analgesics, antipyretics, antibacterial agents, antiprotozoal agents, anti-inflammatory agents, steroids, probiotics, prebiotics, antibiotics, bisphosphonates, cytotoxic agents, immunomodulators and antiparasitic agents.

90. (New) The composition according to claim 88, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of erythropoietin, human growth hormone, metronidazole, clarithomycin, gentamycin, ciprofloxacin, rifabutin, 5-aminosalicylic acid, 4-aminosalicylic acid, balsalazide, α-amylase, paracetamol, metformin, prednisolone metasulphobenzoate, cyclophosphamide, cisplatin, vincristine, methotrexate, azathioprine, cyclosporin and albenazole.

91. (New) The composition according to claim 88, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of prednisolone metasulphobenzoate, paracetamol, metronidazole and α-amylase.

92. (New) The composition according to claim 63, wherein the active compound in the plurality of first particles is different from the active compound in the plurality of second particles.